

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY NAMES CHAIR AND APPOINTS FIVE TO COURTS COMMISSION

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has named **Sen. Walter Dalton** (D-Cleveland, Rutherford) of Rutherfordton chairman of the North Carolina Courts Commission. The appointment was made jointly with state Supreme Court Chief Justice Sarah Parker. In addition, Easley has appointed to the Courts Commission: **Rep. Margaret Highsmith Dickson** (D-Cumberland) of Fayetteville, **Peter S. Gilchrist, III** of Huntersville, **Karen C. Johnson** of Greensboro, **Howard Twiggs** of Raleigh and reappointed **Warren Hughes** of Burnsville.

Dalton is a partner at Dalton and Miller law firm. He is co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and serves on the Senate Commerce Committee, Judiciary III Committee and Education/Higher Education Committee. Dalton is a member of the Southern Regional Education Board, the board of directors of the Public School Forum, the Rural Economic Development Center Board and the N.C. Economic Development Board. He was named the 5th most effective legislator in the Senate by the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research in 2005 and Region C Law Enforcement Legislator of the Year in 1999 and 1997. Dalton received his Bachelor's degree in business administration and law degree from UNC at Chapel Hill.

Dickson is a retired broadcast executive. She is chairman of the House Education Subcommittee on Universities and vice chairman of the Education Committee. Dickson also serves on the Appropriations Committee, Commerce Committee, Financial Institutions Committee, Military Veterans and Indian Affairs Committee and the House Select Committee on the Lottery. She is a member of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum Board of Directors, the UNC at Chapel Hill Board of Visitors and the Cumberland County Business Council Board of Directors. Dickson received her Bachelor's degree in communications from UNC at Chapel Hill.

Gilchrist is the district attorney in Mecklenburg County. He received his Bachelor's degree in English from UNC at Chapel Hill. Gilchrist earned his law degree from Duke University School of Law.

Johnson is a legal assistant at Smith Moore law firm. She is a member of the legal assistant division of the N.C. Bar Association. Johnson received her Bachelor's degree in history from UNC at Chapel Hill and her paralegal certificate from the National Center for Paralegal Training in Atlanta, Ga.

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